

STATE OF UTAH GENERAL OUTLOOK

April 1, 2007

SUMMARY

March reminds us that when you think it can't possibly get worse, it certainly can. This March was a complete disaster for snowpacks. At a time when Utah normally gets a substantial amount of snow (about 17% of our total snowpack typically accumulates in March), snowpacks were in full retreat, heading the wrong direction. Not in a quiet, organized fashion but in full out panic, headlong at full speed without the cinch tightened and with stirrups flapping. So, just how bad was it? The March snowpack accumulation in Bear River was -29% of average, the worst April 1 since 2001. The Weber River March accumulation was -28% of average, the worst April 1 since 1992. The March accumulation in the Provo was -41% of average, making it the worst April 1 since 1977 and there are still many who remember how bad 1977 was. The Uinta's March accumulation was -38% of average, also the worst April 1 since 1977. Both Southeast Utah and the Sevier River have a new record low April 1 snowpack, with percent of average March accumulation at -79% and -76%, respectively. Southwest Utah March accumulation was -138%, the worst snowpack since 2002. Statewide, the March accumulation was -55% of average and the worst state total since 1977. Is this the worst March ever in terms of snowpack accumulation? The answer is no, there have been a couple that were worse, but this year we really haven't had any good accumulation months for the entire season. This leaves us in the current position of having snowpacks that range from 37% of average in southwest Utah to 57% of average on the Uintas. Most areas have between 40% and 55% of average snowpacks. Utah needed a monster March snow accumulation and what we got was one of the lowest on record. Soil moisture, as one would expect from all that melting snow, increased rapidly this past month: Bear - 74%, Weber - 72%, Provo - 65%, Uintah Basin - 61%, southeast Utah - 73%, Sevier - 69%, southwest Utah - 66%, and statewide - 69% of saturation. These values are a little higher than last year. In general, most areas of the state have excellent reservoir carryover. General water supply conditions range from much below to near average. Streamflow forecasts range from 13% to 68% of average. Surface Water Supply Indices range from 12% on the Weber River to 67% on the west side of the Uintah Basin.

SNOWPACK

April first snowpacks as measured by the NRCS SNOTEL are as follows: Bear - 56%, Weber - 54%, Provo - 50%, Uintahs - 57%, southeast Utah - 36%, Sevier - 45%, southwest Utah - 37% and the statewide figure is 50% of average. Snowpacks are isothermal at most locations with rapid snowmelt. This is about 3 weeks earlier than normal. In a general statewide context, this is the worst April 1 snowpack since 1977.

PRECIPITATION

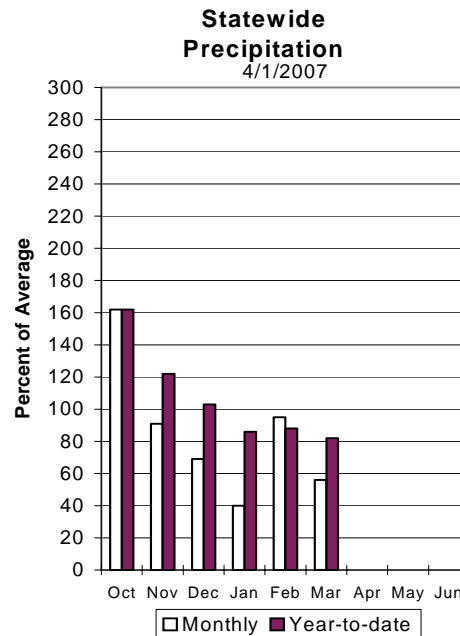
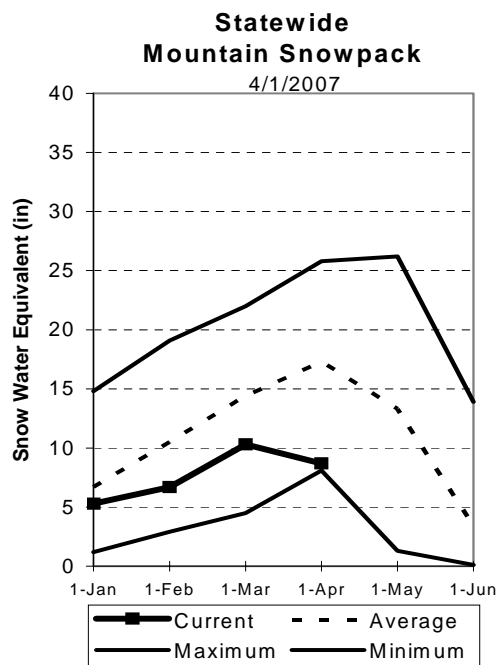
Mountain precipitation during March was much below normal in northern Utah (58%-65%) and much below normal across southern Utah (34%-51%). This brings the seasonal accumulation (Oct-Mar) to 82% of average statewide and ranges from 76% on southwest Utah to 88% over southeastern Utah.

RESERVOIRS

Storage in 41 of Utah's key irrigation reservoirs is at 74% of capacity up 3% from last month. This is also an increase of 3% from last year. Reservoirs across the State have been making steady gains in storage. Bear Lake really is the last reservoir to remain in an extremely low condition due to the prolonged drought.

STREAMFLOW

Snowmelt streamflows are expected to have a wide range from much below average to near average across the state of Utah this year. Forecast streamflows range from 3% on North Creek near Monticello to 68% of average for the Bear River near State Line. Most flows are forecast to be in the 40% to 55% range.



Statewide Basin Reservoir Storage

